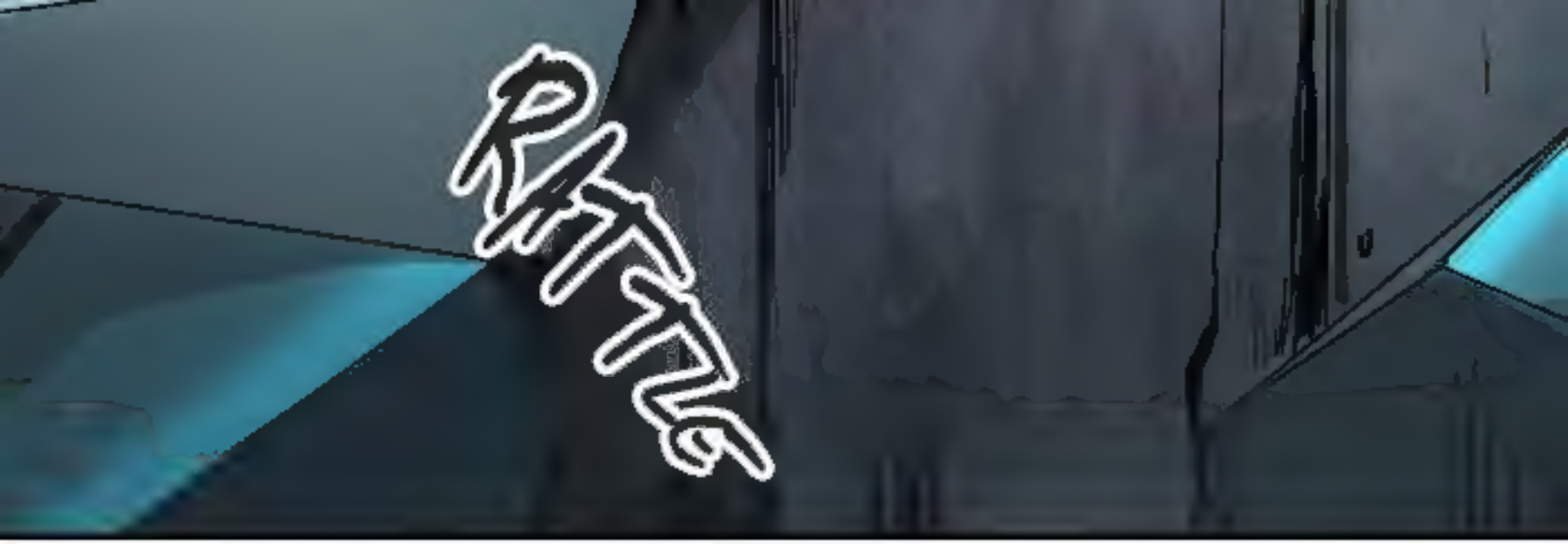
RATTLE
RATTLE
UGH, IT'S FREEZING..


RING

I THOUGHT THE WEATHER MIGHT CHANGE BIT..
THEN THE INTERIOR AND WEATHER CHANGED IN AN INSTANT...
THE TRAIN IS SO FICKLE...
RUMBLE
IS THE 40TH FLOOR THE ONE WITH CRYSTAL SHARDS?
...IT SEEMS THAT WAY. WE HAD BETTER BE CAREFUL.

CRYSTAL SHARDS: A VICIOUS TYPE OF DIVINE SEA FISH ON THE TRAIN WHICH TRAVELS IN GROUPS. THEY ONLY LIVE IN COLD SHINSU.

WHERE'S KHUN?
HE'S BEEN SHUT HIMSELF IN WITH THAT LITTLE DWARF ALL DAY.
HE MUST BE TEACHING KHUN SOMETHING PRETTY AWESOME.

I SEE.. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'RE GOING TO SEE BAM FOR A WHILE EITHER.. BUT WE'RE ALMOST AT THE NEXT STATION.
WILL THIS BE OKAY?
WELL, IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HOAQIN,
I DON'T THINK HE'S IN A HURRY TO APPEAR BEFORE WE REACH THE FLOOR OF DEATH.

WE CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN. BY THE WAY. THOSE REINFORCEMENTS THAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE..
WOULD THERE BE ANYONE?
I DON'T THINK...
ANYONE WANTING TO GO TO THE FLOOR OF DEATH WITH US IS LIKELY TO SHOW UP...

ON THE 40TH FLOOR... I KNOW A REALLY EXCEPTIONAL SCOUT..
BUT THAT MAN..

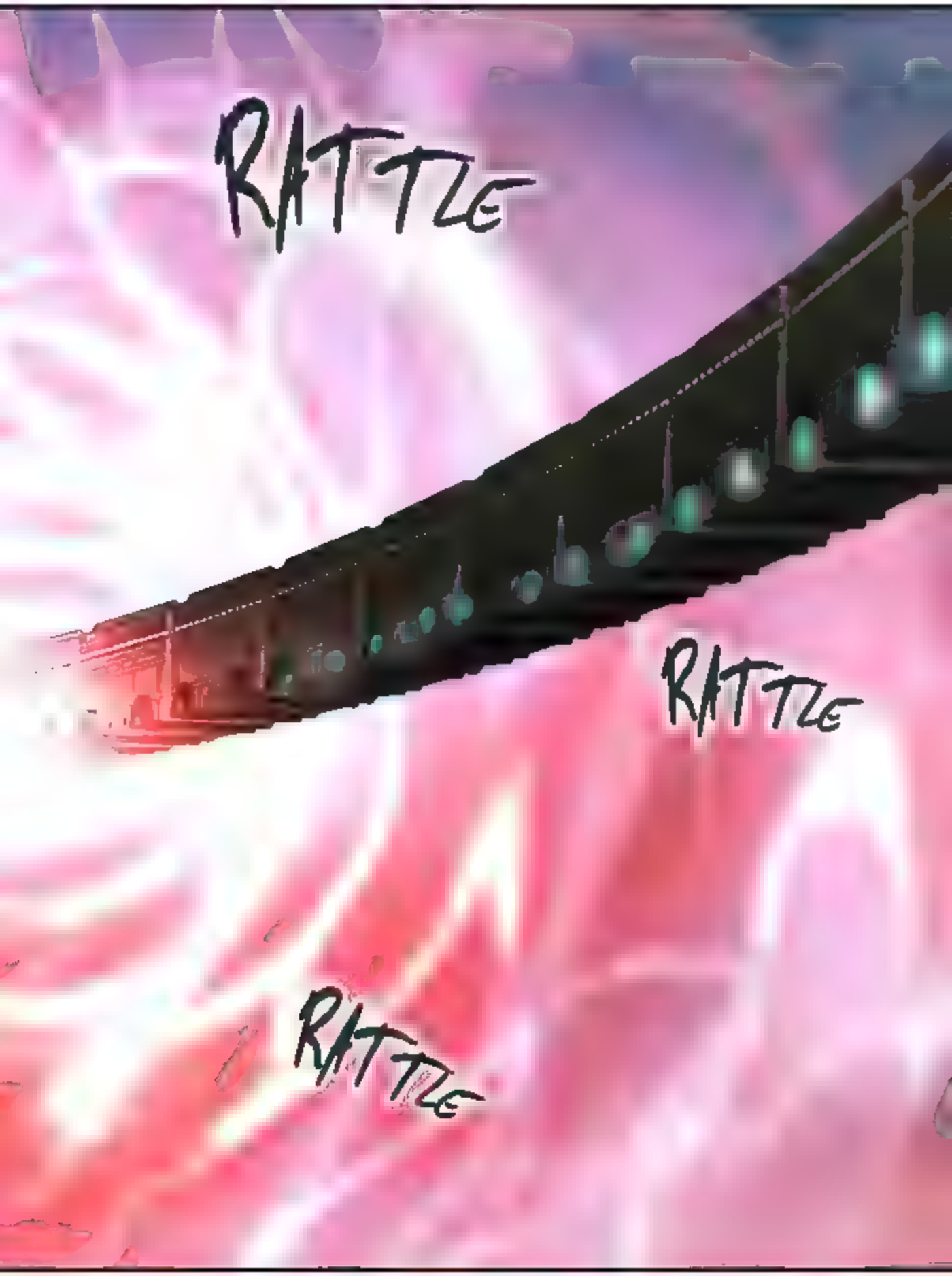
RATTLE

RATTLE

HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRAIN.

RATTLE

SO...IT'S HERE NOW.


RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

FLOOR 40
STATION
MUSHROOM
FARM

ARRIVAL OF
THE HELL
TRAIN.

SHHHHHHH
WHING-

Talse uzer story by Slave. In. Utero

# Tower of God

KSSSHHH

CRASH
KSSHH
KSSHH

HEY BOY!!
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

.....?
THIS IS JUST A SHINSU CONTROL SKILL THAT ORDINARY REGULARS USE.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THE SKILL THAT I'M TRYING TO TEACH YOU IF YOU DO IT LIKE THIS.

TRY TO FEEL IT A BIT MORE. THIS SPACE, THIS SHINSU.
YOU CAN CONTROL ALL OF THIS.

SWOOSH
ORDINARY REGULARS ARE GRANTED THE AUTHORITY TO CONTROL SHINSU FROM ADMINISTRATORS,
BUT YOU MUST REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE HAD THAT AUTHORITY FROM THE VERY START.
WOOSH
MAKE THIS SPACE YOUR OWN.

BECAUSE THAT IS THE PRIVILEGE OF 'THOSE WHO OPEN THE DOOR.'
?!

FLASH
FLASH
YOU MUST REALIZE THAT IN ORDER TO MASTER 'SHINSU BLACK-HOLE SPHERE'

IT'S QUIET...

I FINALLY REMEMBERED. THE 40TH FLOOR MUSHROOM FARM.
YOU WILL COUGH LIKE CRAZY WHEN YOU HEAD DOWN BECAUSE OF THE MUSHROOM SPORES.
I DIDN'T SEE THE TICKETER GET ON THE TRAIN DURING MY LAST FEW TRIPS...

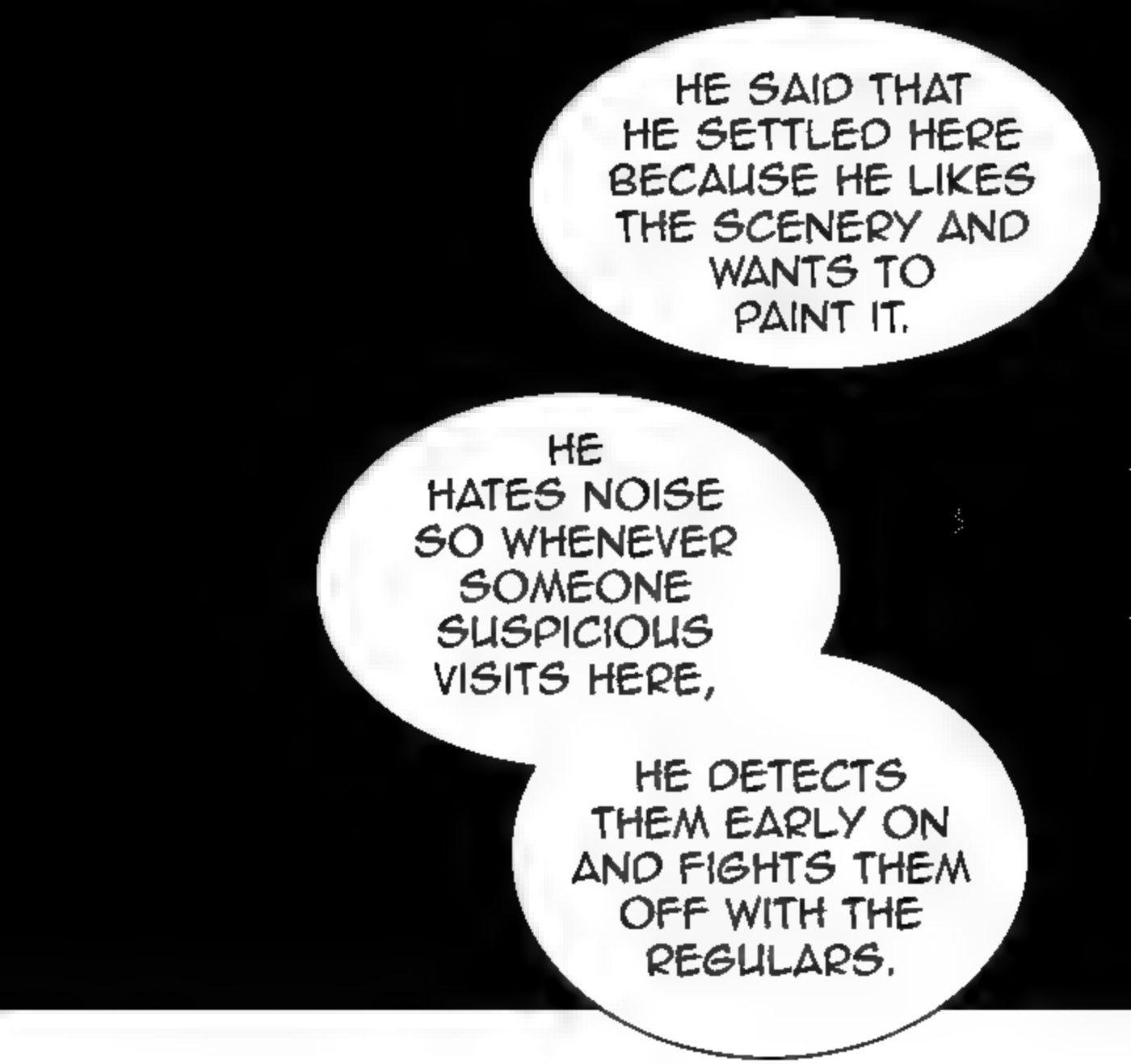
IS NO ONE GETTING ON AGAIN THIS TIME TOO?

I'M ALWAYS CURIOUS TO SEE WHO LIVES HERE WHENEVER I COME HERE...
WHO'S LIVING IN THAT CASTLE-LIKE PLACE OVER THERE?

I'VE BEEN TO THIS STATION SEVERAL TIMES.
WHEN I WAS BUSY GATHERING TICKETS...
REALLY? IS THERE ANYONE HERE?
YEAH.
NOT MANY, BUT THERE ARE SOME REGULARS WHO HAVE SETTLED HERE.

AND A BOY WITH MYSTERIOUS EYES
LIVES OVER THERE.

I ONLY MET HIM BRIEFLY BUT HE WAS AN INTERESTING KID.
HE CALLS HIMSELF A PAINTER.


HE SAID THAT HE SETTLED HERE BECAUSE HE LIKES THE SCENERY AND WANTS TO PAINT IT.
HE HATES NOISE SO WHENEVER SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS VISITS HERE,
HE DETECTS THEM EARLY ON AND FIGHTS THEM OFF WITH THE REGULARS.

IT'S A BIT OF A WASTE FOR HIM TO BE HERE SINCE HE HAS SUCH REMARKABLE ABILITIES.
WHEN I MET HIM RECENTLY, HE SEEMED TO BE WAITING FOR SOMEONE.
HE MIGHT HAVE MET THEM BY NOW.

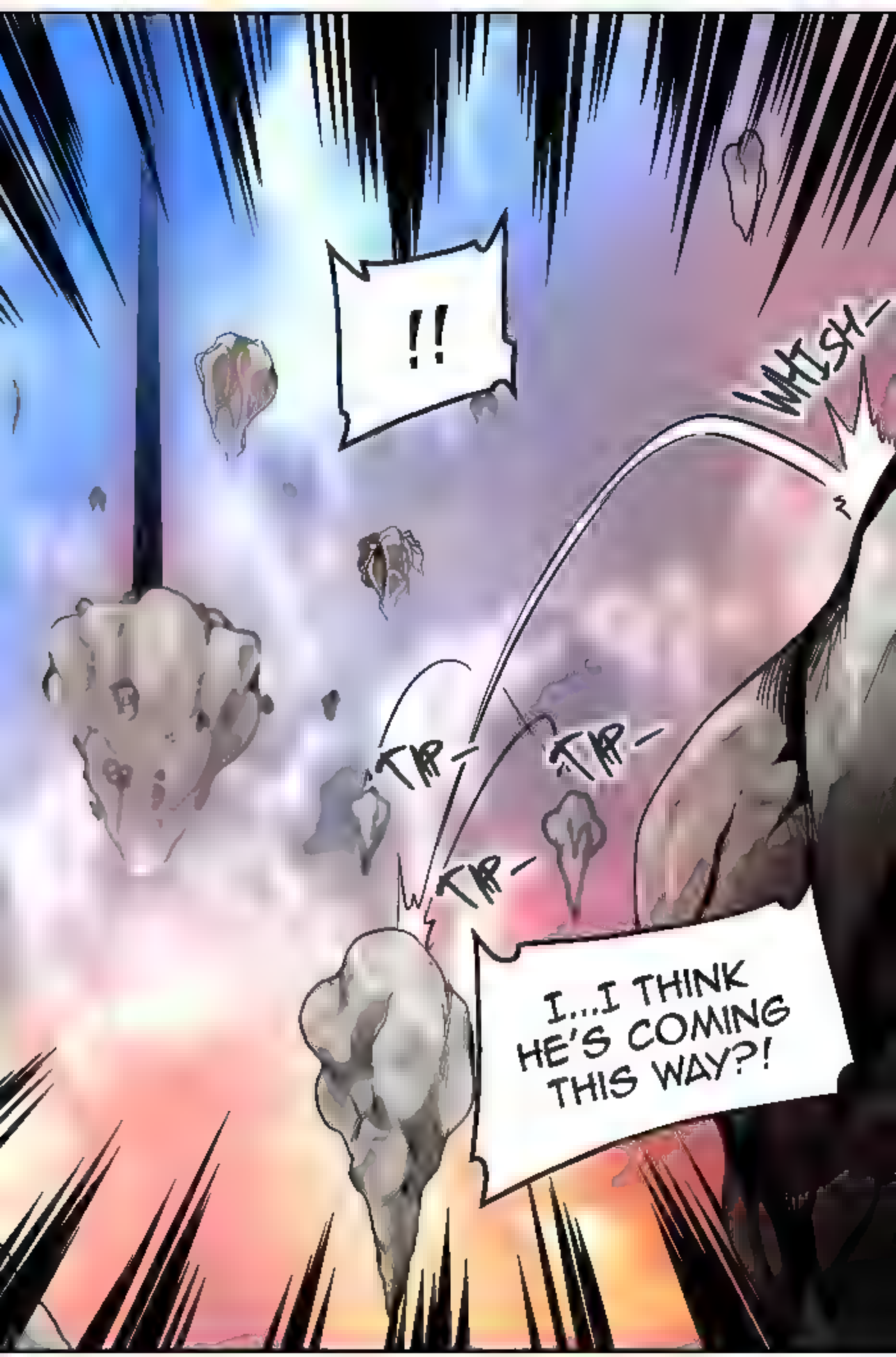
HOW ROMANTIC... A PAINTER LIVING ON A HELL TRAIN STATION.
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF UNUSUAL PEOPLE ON THE TOWER...
HM?

SOMEONE'S COMING?!
FLOAT-
FLOAT-
WHAT...?

.....THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

HOCKNEY...?!

HOCKNEY..?
THAT'S RIGHT..!
THAT'S THE PAINTER THAT I SAID I MET BEFORE!!

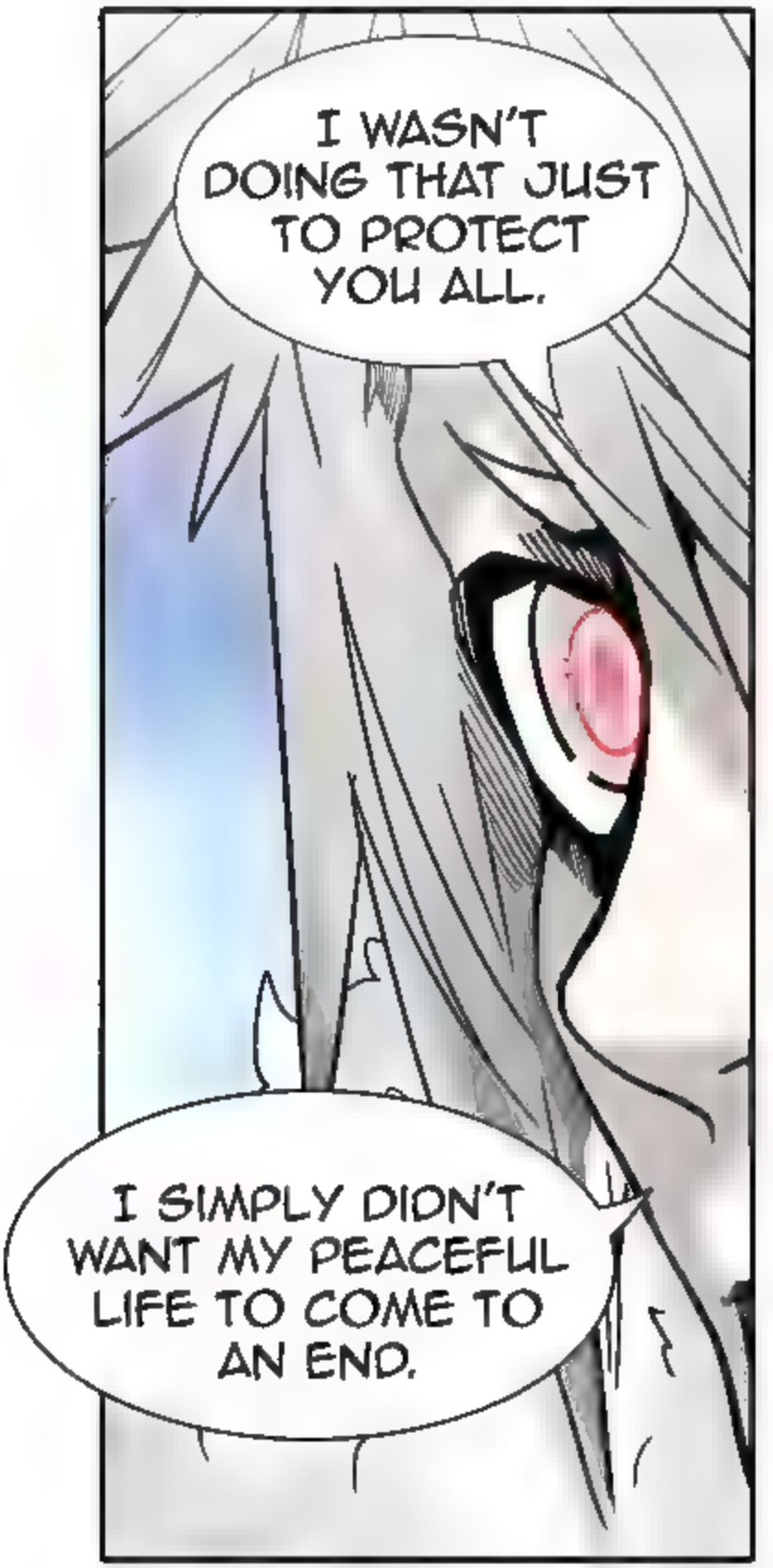

!!
WHISH—
TAP—
TAP—
TAP—
I...I THINK HE'S COMING THIS WAY?!

?!
STOMP
STOMP

HOCKNEY! WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY CHANGE YOUR MIND!?
JOURDAN?
ARCU?
YOU'VE NEVER ONCE SAID THAT YOU WOULD GET ON THE TRAIN BEFORE!!

WE'LL ALL DIE IF YOU LEAVE!!
WE CAN'T PREPARE OURSELVES FOR OUTSIDE INTRUDERS WITHOUT YOUR 'EYES'!!
THAT'S RIGHT!! THIS STATION HAS BEEN PEACEFUL THIS WHOLE TIME BECAUSE OF YOU, HOCKNEY!!
IF YOU LEAVE...!!

STEP ASIDE.
!!


I WASN'T DOING THAT JUST TO PROTECT YOU ALL.
I SIMPLY DIDN'T WANT MY PEACEFUL LIFE TO COME TO AN END.

IF YOU INSIST ON STOPPING ME, I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GET BY YOU USING FORCE.
!!
SHHHH

FLASH
UGH!!
AGHH!!

TAP-
TAP-
HOCKNEY!!
BZZT
PLEASE DON'T GO, HOCKNEY!!
BZZT

HE'S COMING UP HERE.

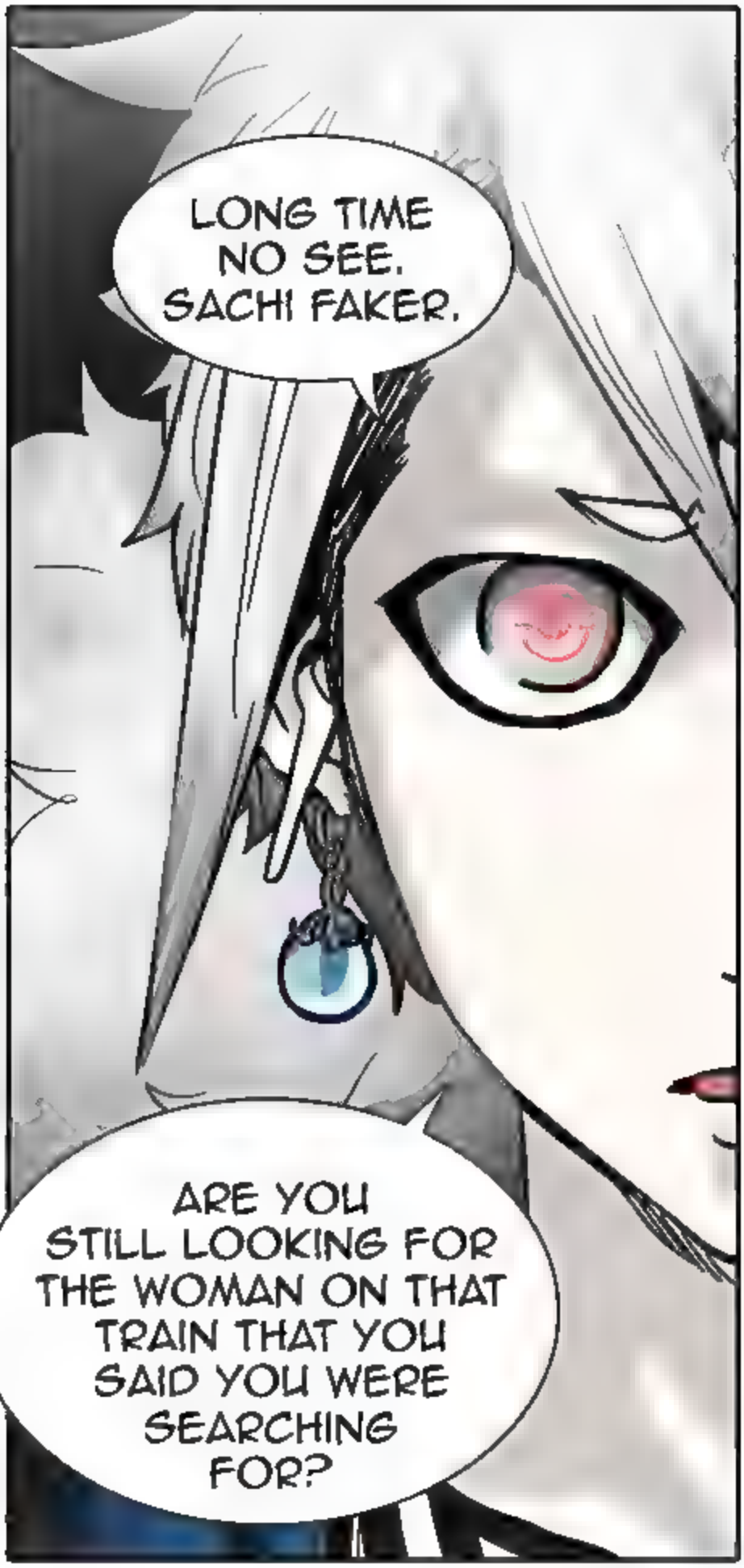
IS HE GETTING ON THE TRAIN?

HOCKNEY!

...I THINK SO.

HOCKNEY!

RATTLE
HOW SURPRISING.
RATTLE
HOCKNEY... YOU'RE GETTING ON THE TRAIN?
RATTLE


LONG TIME NO SEE. SACHI FAKER.
ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR THE WOMAN ON THAT TRAIN THAT YOU SAID YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR?

NO..
ROEN IS NOW..
I'M ON THE TRAIN FOR A DIFFERENT PURPOSE NOW.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT I FOUND HER...
I SEE. ANYWAY, CONGRATULATIONS.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE A NEW PURPOSE.

BUT WHY ARE YOU GETTING ON THE TRAIN...?
HAVE YOU MET THE PERSON YOU WERE WAITING FOR?
WELL...
HEY, IS THIS A NEW TICKETER?

IS HE ON OUR SIDE?
STEP—
STEP—

...HE'S A SCOUT THAT I KNOW.

HE'S NOT AN ENEMY, AT LEAST.

...? THERE'S A STRANGE WOMAN.

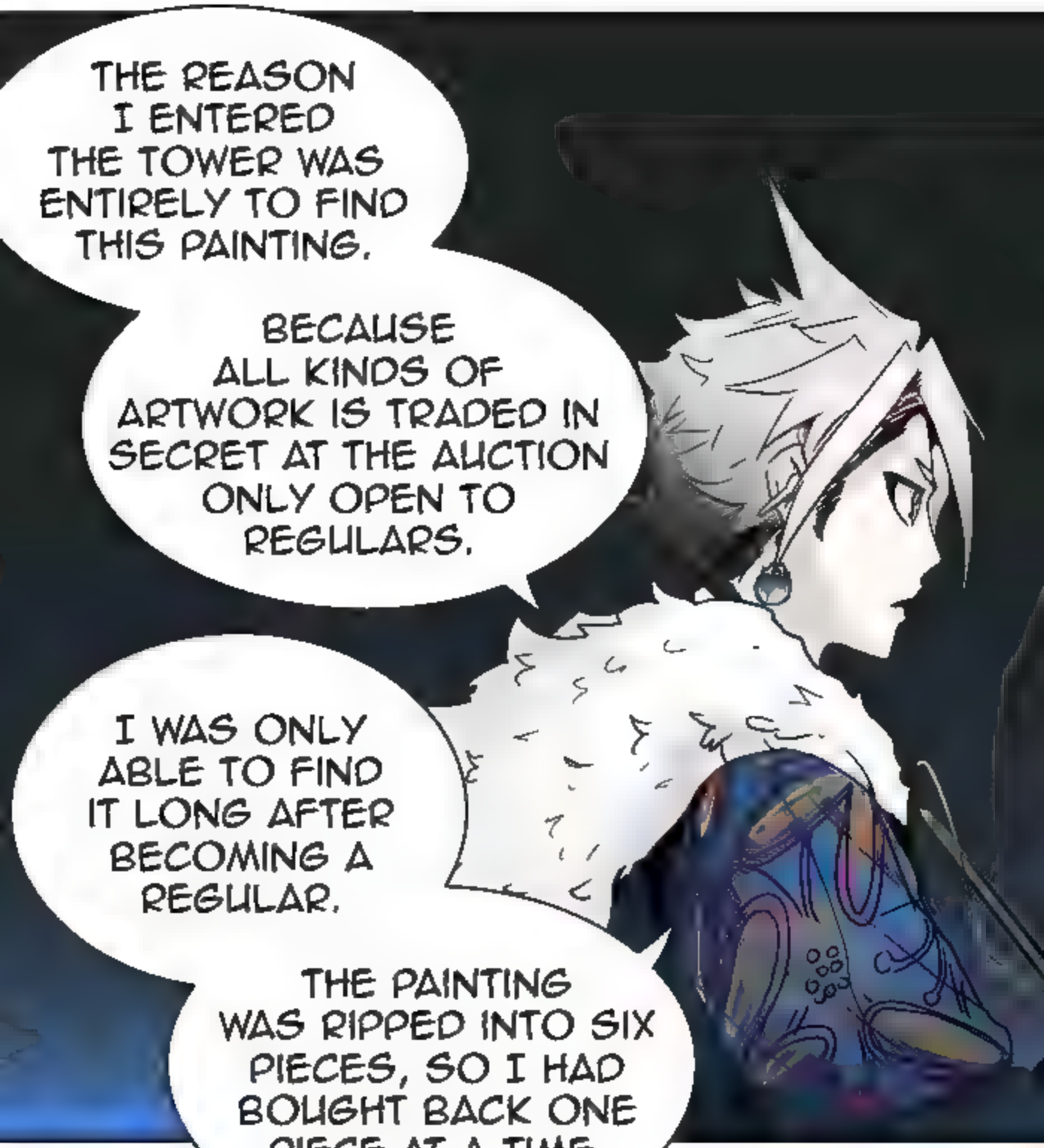
SO.. HOCKNEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE TRAIN?
AH...

SACHI, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PICTURE ON THE TRAIN?
SSK
?

PIC...TURE..?

NO.. I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.. WHAT KIND OF PICTURE.. IS THIS?
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S THE 'RED LIGHT' THAT I WAS WAITING FOR.

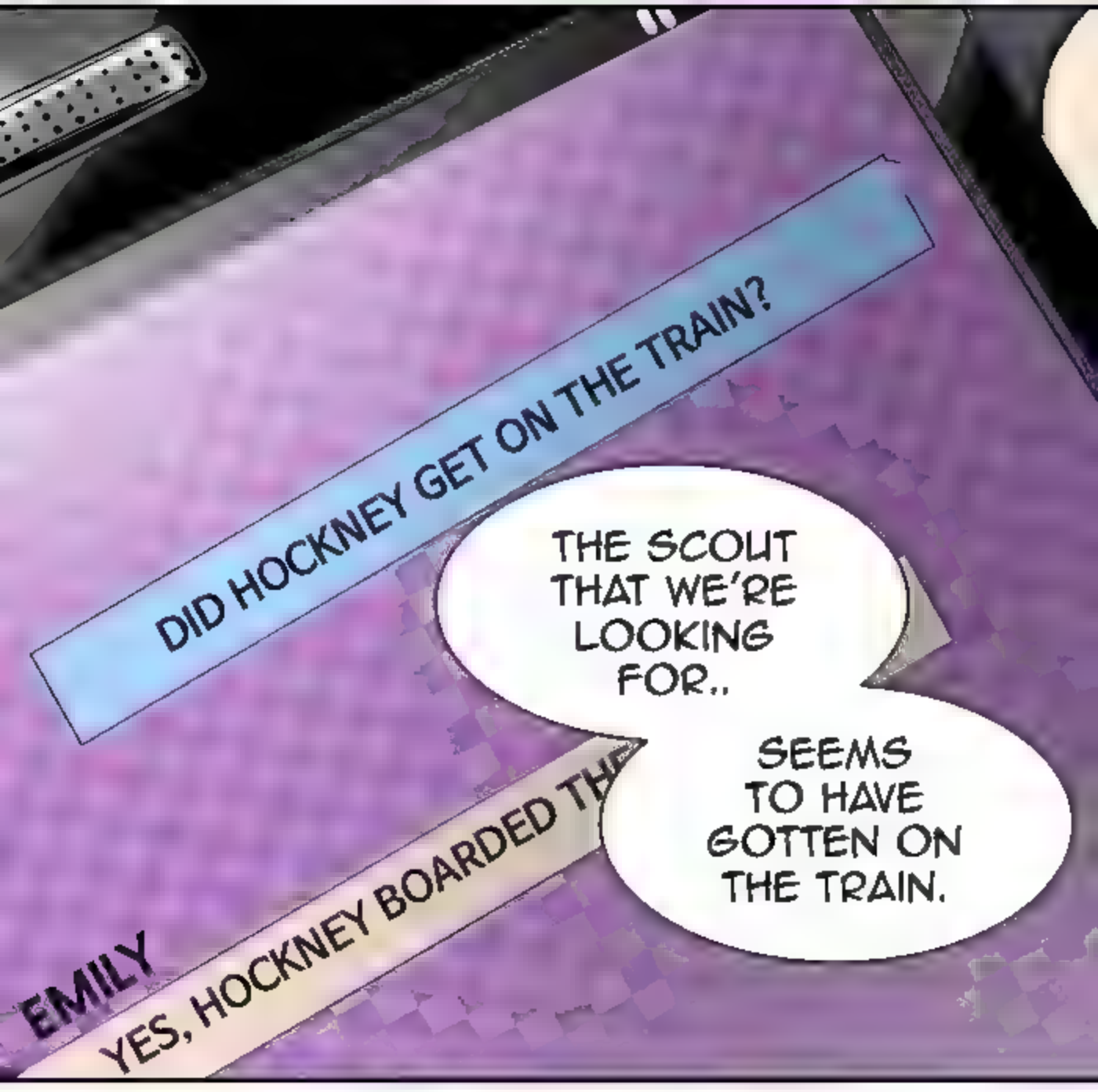
T- THE THING THAT YOU WERE WAITING FOR WASN'T A PERSON?!
I NEVER SAID IT WAS A PERSON.
THIS IS A PAINTING THAT I PAINTED.
I PAINTED IT BEFORE BECOMING A REGULAR AND CLIMBING THE TOWER, BUT IT GOT STOLEN.


THE REASON I ENTERED THE TOWER WAS ENTIRELY TO FIND THIS PAINTING.
BECAUSE ALL KINDS OF ARTWORK IS TRADED IN SECRET AT THE AUCTION ONLY OPEN TO REGULARS.
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO FIND IT LONG AFTER BECOMING A REGULAR.
THE PAINTING WAS RIPPED INTO SIX PIECES, SO I HAD BOUGHT BACK ONE PIECE AT A TIME.

FINALLY, I BOUGHT THE LAST PIECE OF THIS PAINTING
AND THAT LAST PIECE IS SUPPOSED TO BE SENT TO ME ON THE HELL TRAIN.
BUT AT SOME POINT, I LOST CONTACT WITH THE DELIVERY PERSON.

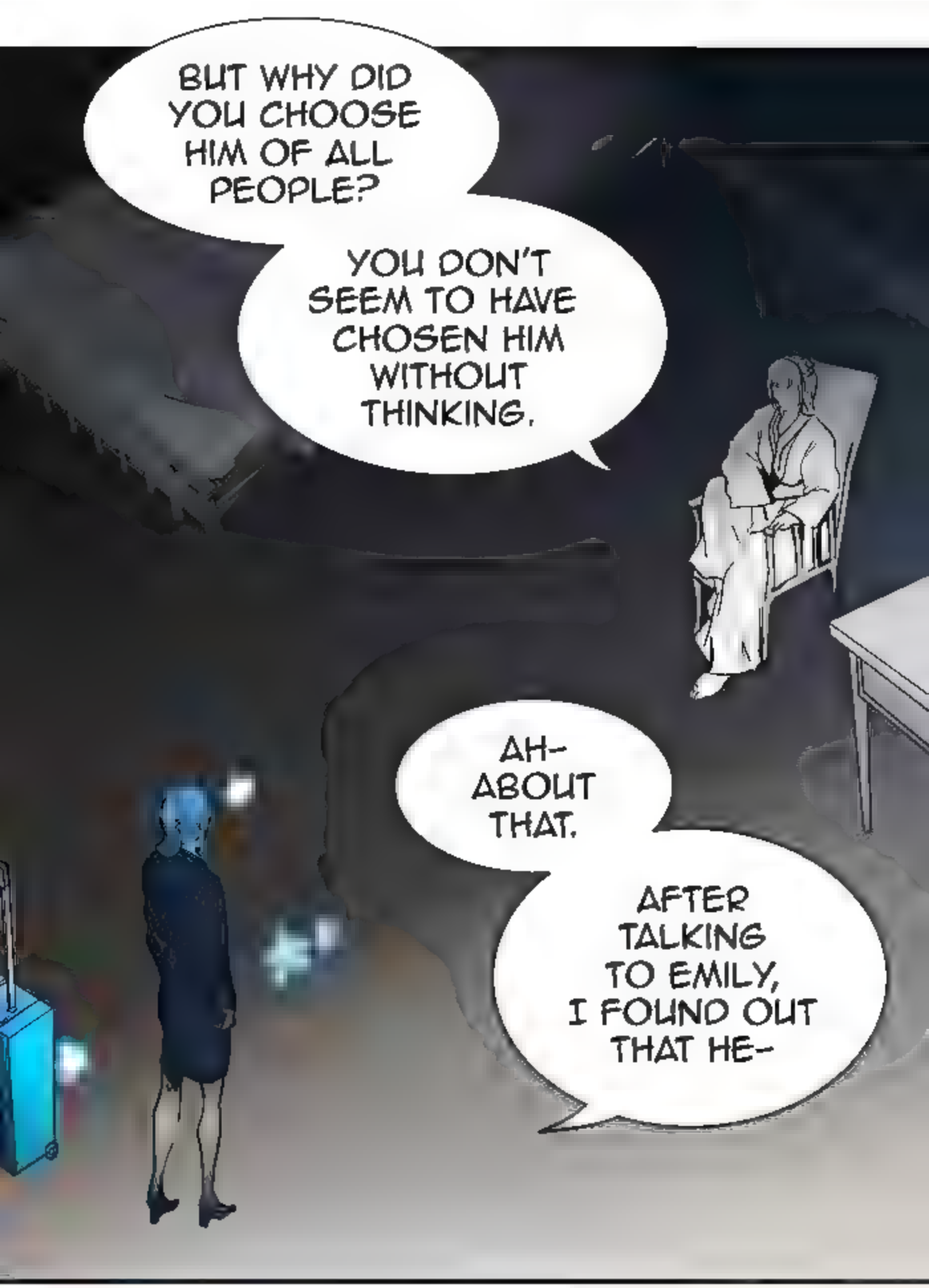
AND RECENTLY, I FOUND OUT FROM THIS 'EMILY' THAT THE PAINTING IS HIDDEN ON THE TRAIN.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE EXACTLY ON THE TRAIN IT IS
BUT BASED ON THE SITUATION SO FAR, IT'S DEFINITELY ON THIS TRAIN.

I PLAN ON STAYING ON THE TRAIN UNTIL I FIND THAT PAINTING.
BECAUSE THE RED LIGHT IS LIKE MY OWN SOUL.

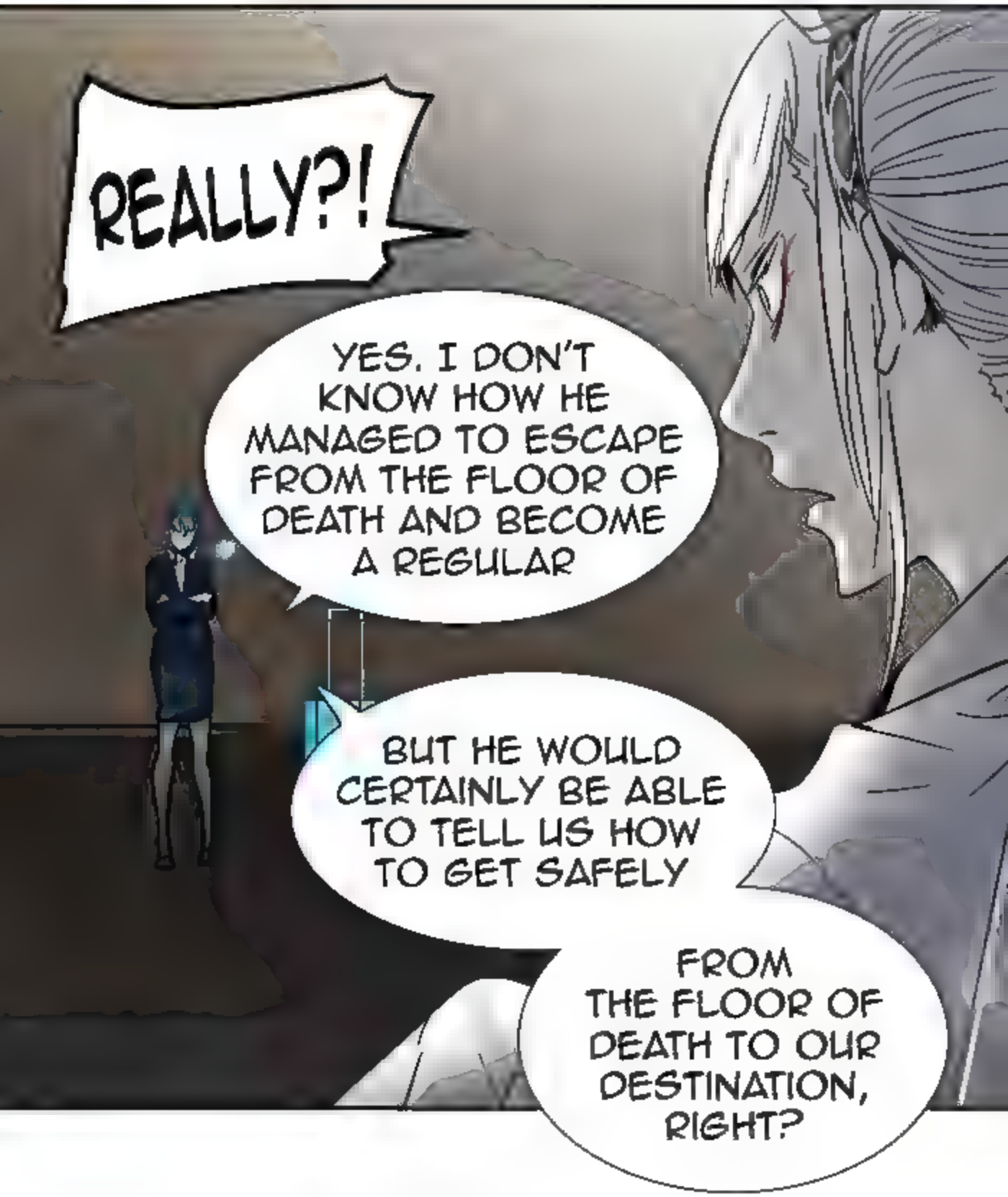

DID HOCKNEY GET ON THE TRAIN?
THE SCOUT THAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR..
SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN ON THE TRAIN.
EMILY
YES, HOCKNEY BOARDED TH

..AREN'T WE GOING TO GO AND NEGOTIATE RIGHT NOW?
THAT WOULD BE RISKY.
I'M SCARED BECAUSE THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO US IF WE GO NOW.

FOR NOW, LET HIM MOVE AROUND WITH THOSE GUYS.
WE MAY BE ABLE TO USE HIM AS A SPY LATER ANYWAY.
.....?


BUT WHY DID YOU CHOOSE HIM OF ALL PEOPLE?
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE CHOSEN HIM WITHOUT THINKING.
AH- ABOUT THAT.
AFTER TALKING TO EMILY, I FOUND OUT THAT HE-

IS FROM THE 'FLOOR OF DEATH.'
YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD MODEL.
YOU LOOK LIKE VENUS..
WHAT!? REALLY?!
YEP. VOLUPTUOUS, JUST LIKE WILLENDORF..
...!!

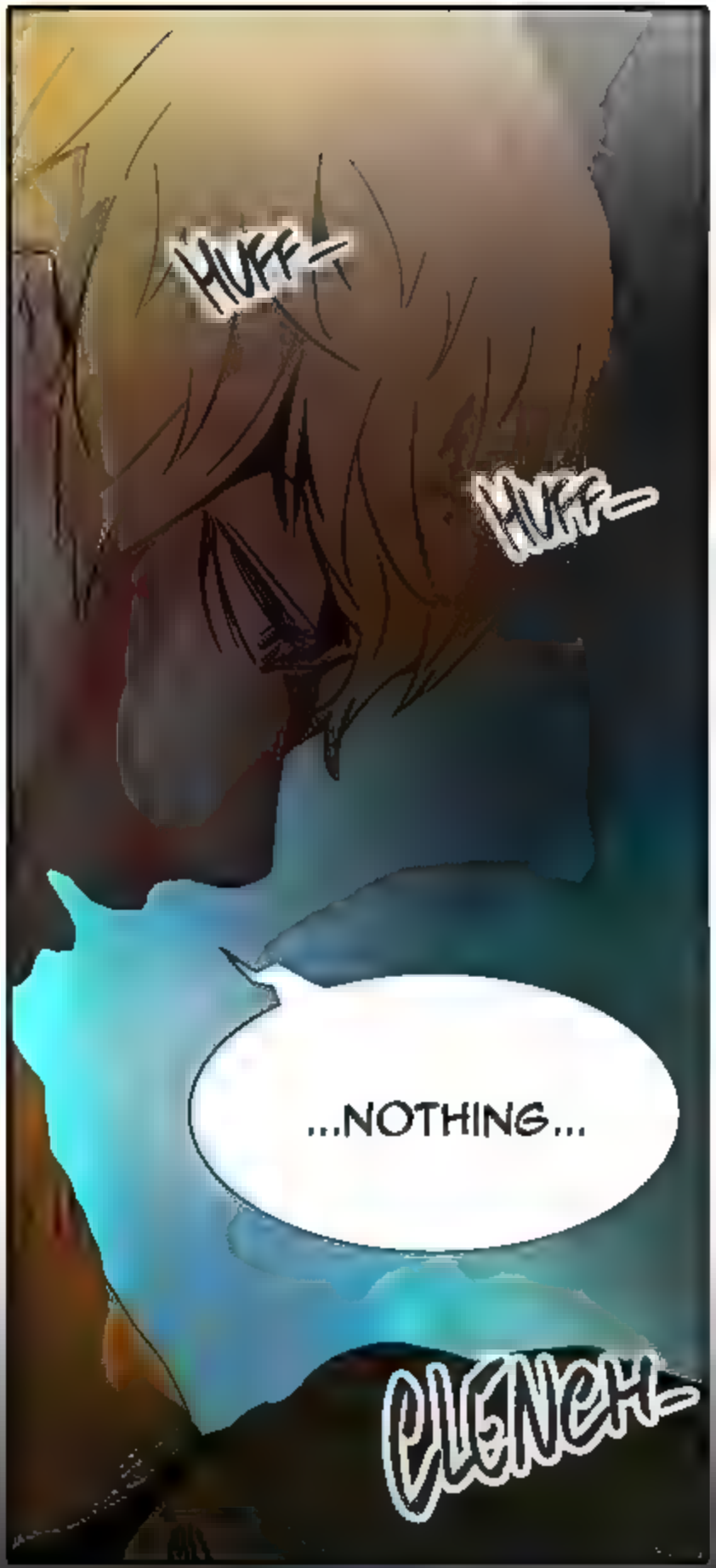

REALLY?!
YES. I DON'T KNOW HOW HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM THE FLOOR OF DEATH AND BECOME A REGULAR
BUT HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO TELL US HOW TO GET SAFELY
FROM THE FLOOR OF DEATH TO OUR DESTINATION, RIGHT?

..BUT WHAT IF HE REFUSES TO DO SO?
DON'T WORRY.
HE CAN'T REFUSE ME ANYWAY.
BECAUSE..

I HAVE
HIS SOUL.

HUFF—
HUFF—
HUFF—

WANGNAN... AREN'T YOU COLD?
I'M OKAY SO TAKE THIS BLANKET..
I'M FINE.
HUFF
HUFF
I WAS BORN IN A COLD PLACE. THIS TYPE OF COLD IS...


HUFF—
HUFF—
...NOTHING...
CLENCH—

JOIN FORCES WITH ME, PRINCE OF THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT.
CHANGE THE TOWER WITH ME.

IF YOU JOIN FORCES WITH ME, I'LL TELL CASANO TO SPARE HORYANG.
SINCE I KILLED ONE OF YOUR COMPANIONS. I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT A KIND OF APOLOGY.
.....!
THINK ABOUT IT. BEING STUBBORN NOW WON'T BRING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE BY TOMORROW.

IF YOU HESITATE ANY LONGER-

.....

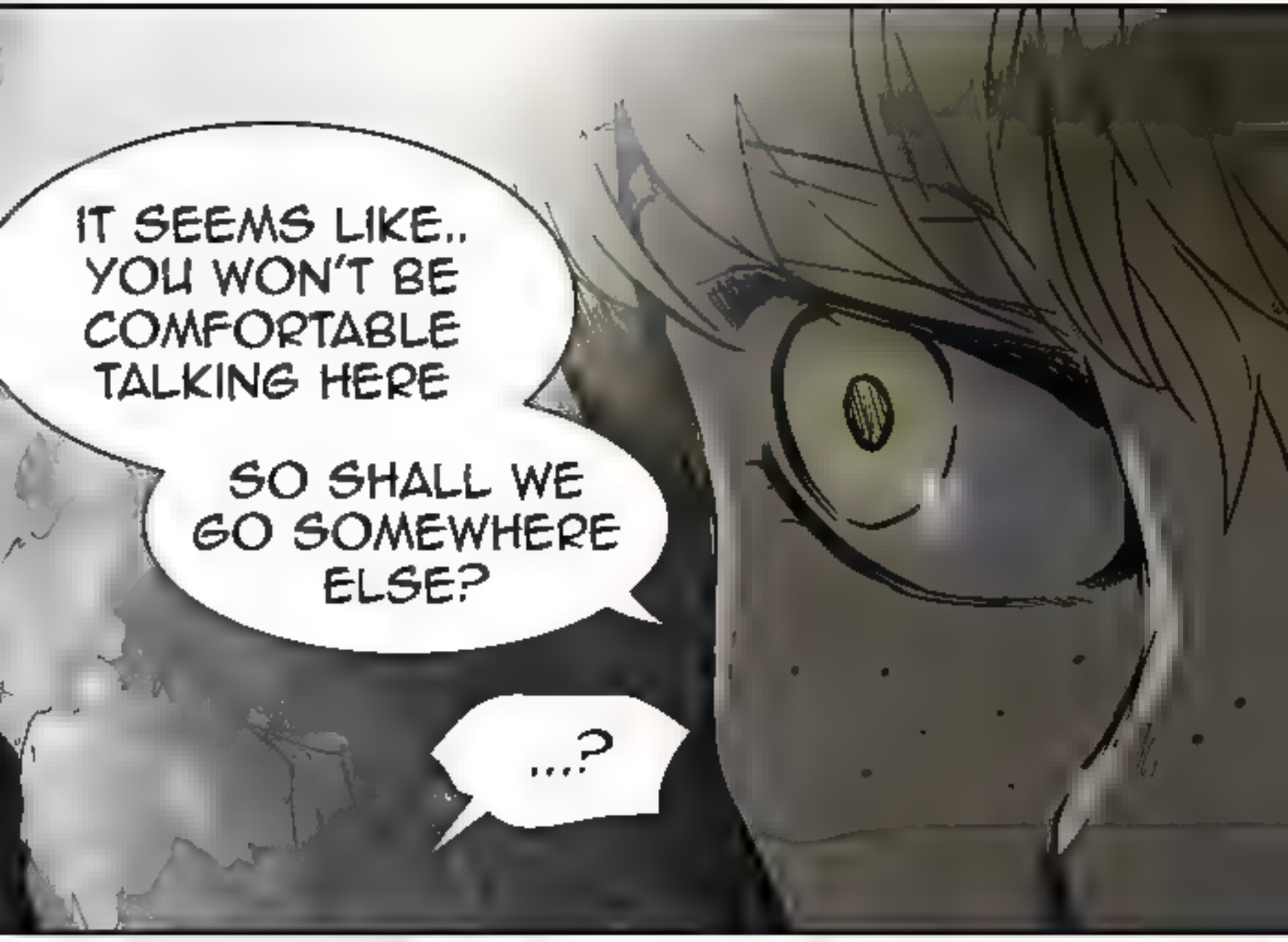
YOUR OTHER COMPANIONS COULD LOSE THEIR LIVES TOO.

CREAK

!
STEP-
STEP-
DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?

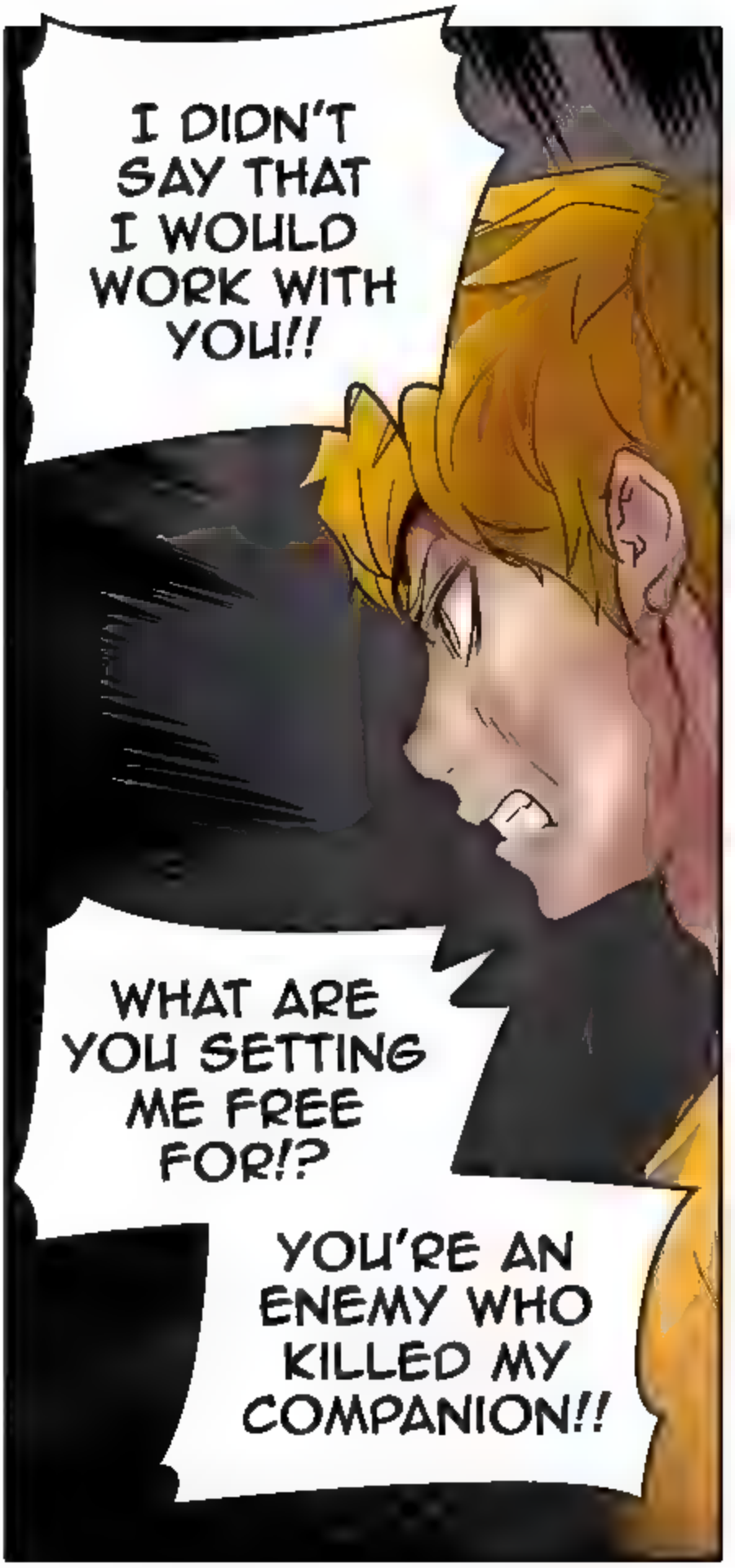
WANGNAN.
I'VE COME TO HEAR
YOUR REPLY TO
MY OFFER FROM
YESTERDAY.

YOU...!
.....

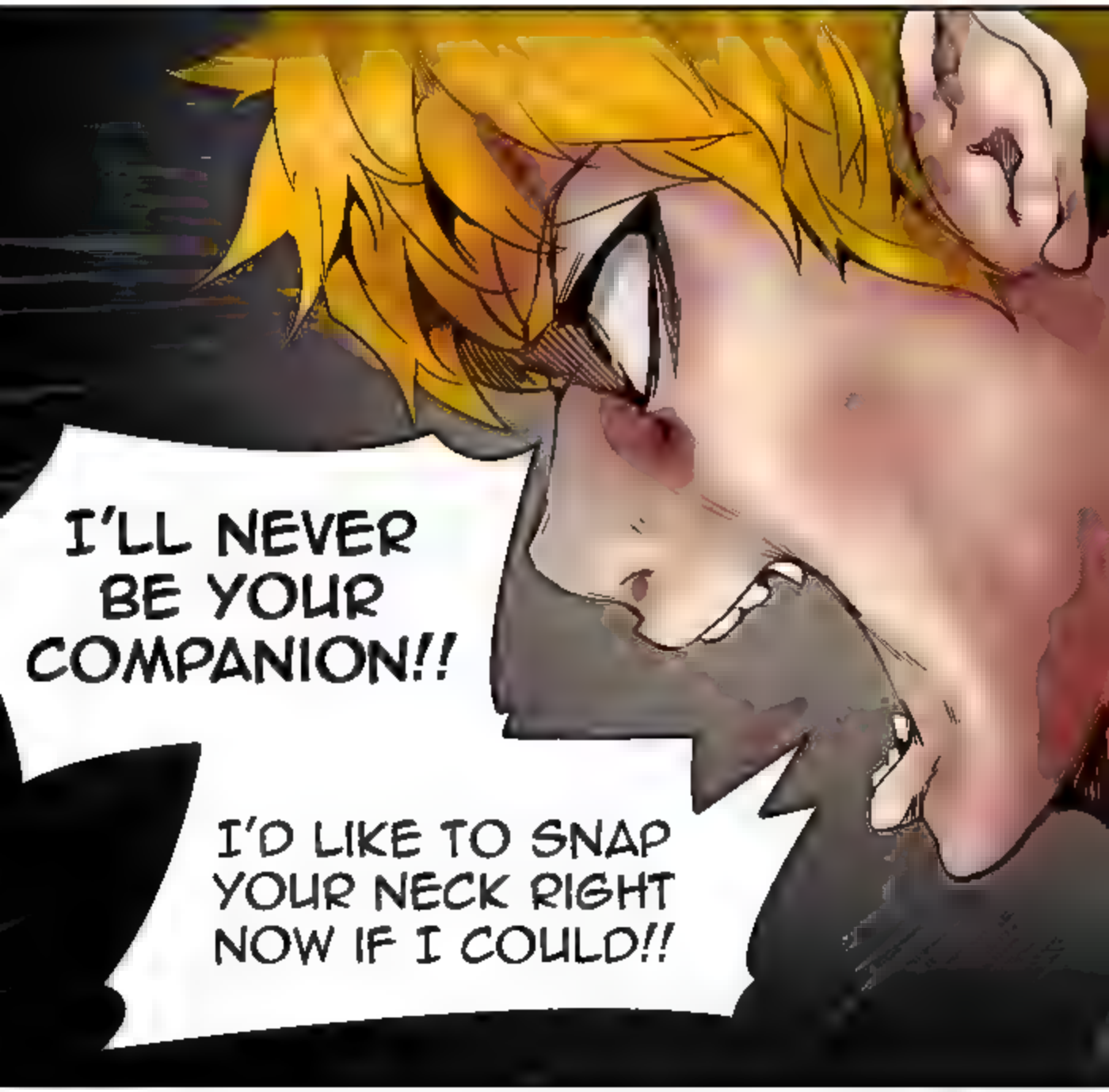

IT SEEMS LIKE.. YOU WON'T BE COMFORTABLE TALKING HERE
SO SHALL WE GO SOMEWHERE ELSE?
...?

I BROUGHT THE KEYS.
CLINK
!!

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT?


I DIDN'T SAY THAT I WOULD WORK WITH YOU!!
WHAT ARE YOU SETTING ME FREE FOR!?
YOU'RE AN ENEMY WHO KILLED MY COMPANION!!

WELL.. I NEED TO HAVE AT LEAST THIS MUCH FAITH IF WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER.
PLUS YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY ATTACKING ME RIGHT NOW.
DON'T KID YOURSELF!!


I'LL NEVER BE YOUR COMPANION!!
I'D LIKE TO SNAP YOUR NECK RIGHT NOW IF I COULD!!

SO WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
..WHAT?
I'M USED TO BEING HATED ANYWAY.
I'VE ALSO CLIMBED THE TOWER BEFORE WITH A MAN WHO WANTED TO KILL ME..

BUT IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT, IS IT?
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT CLOSE COMPANIONS OR FRIENDS,
YOU CAN USE YOUR MUTUAL GOALS AND APPARENT FRIENDSHIP
AS AN EXCUSE TO CLIMB THE TOWER TOGETHER.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

WHAT I WANT IS NEITHER FOR YOU TO BECOME MY FRIEND
NOR TO BECOME MY COMPANION.
.....
I JUST WANT TO CLIMB THE TOWER TOGETHER LIKE OTHERS.
THEN YOU CAN SAVE YOUR COMPANION'S LIFE AND YOUR IDEALS.

FINE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE.

RACHEL...
I WILL CLIMB
THE TOWER
WITH YOU.

...!
IN RETURN, LET MISENG GO.
I HOPE YOU'LL SEND HER TO HORYANG'S SIDE WHEN CASANO FIXES HORYANG.

ALRIGHT. I'LL DO THAT.
AND...
JUST DON'T FORGET THIS ONE THING AS WE'RE CLIMBING THE TOWER TOGETHER.
?
CLENCH-

SOMEDAY..

DRIP—

DRIP—

WITHOUT A DOUBT...

I WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR YOUR CRIME OF KILLING ARKRAPTOR
ABSOLUTELY!!

I'LL KEEP
THAT IN MIND.

ALRIGHT.
THAT'S ALL
FOR TODAY.

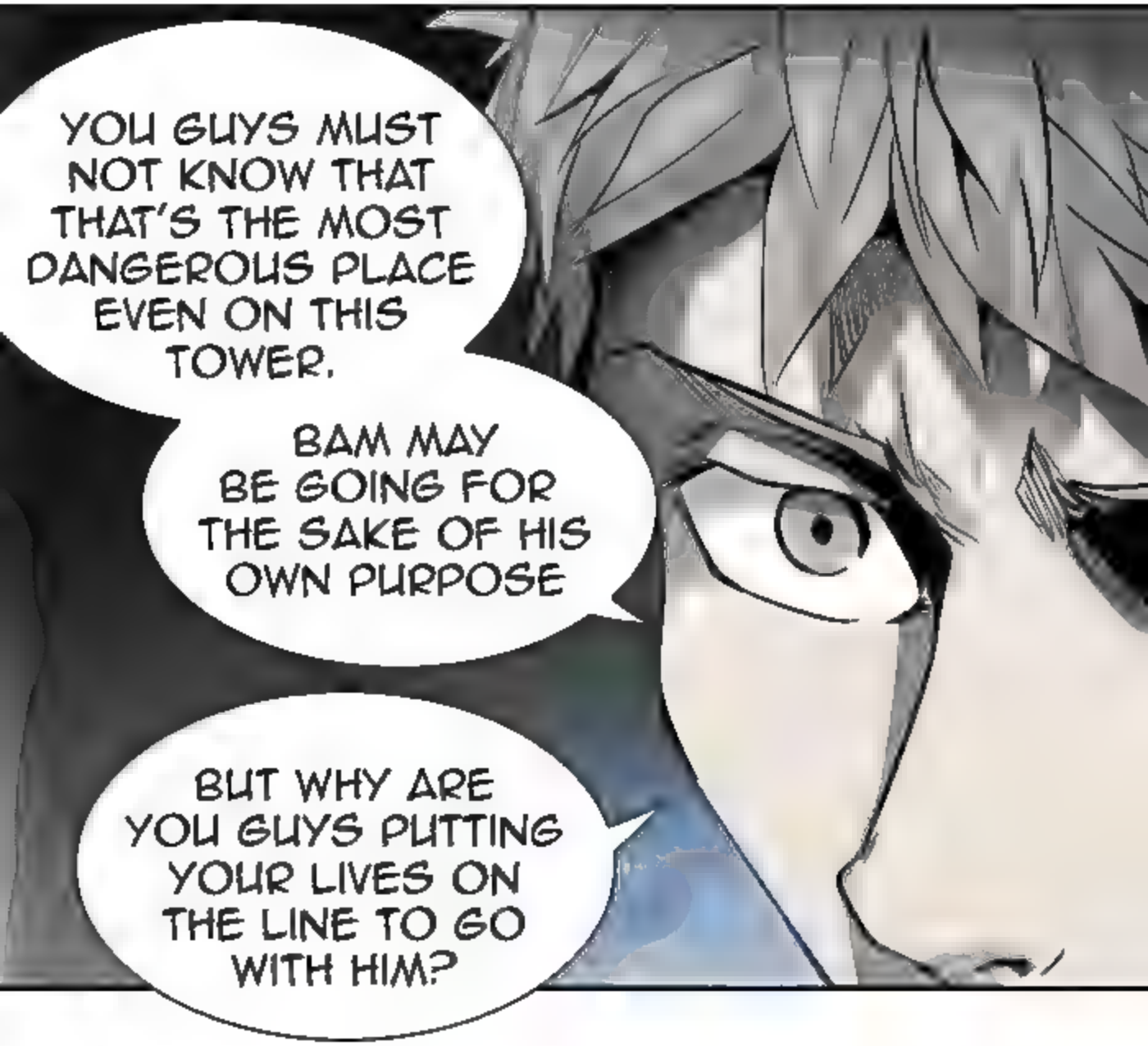
AGH!!
I'M TIRED!!
WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO REST FOR TEN MINUTES!!
THIS IS EXCESSIVE, ISN'T IT!?

HUFF—
THIS IS BRUTAL...
HUFF—
DEMONIC LITTLE DWARF..

I CLEARLY WARNED YOU.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO ASKED FOR THIS.
AND YOU KNOW THAT DWARVES ARE A HIGHER AND MORE ANCIENT SPECIES THAN YOU, RIGHT?
...I KNOW.
STILL, IT MUST HAVE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER BY NOW, RIGHT? THAT SKILL.

WOONG-
WOONG-
WELL...
WOONG-
A BIT..
WOONG-
BUT IT'S STILL NOT NEARLY GOOD ENOUGH BY MY STANDARDS.

BUT.. YOU GUYS ARE VERY HARD TO FIGURE OUT.
.....?
FOLLOWING BAM TO THAT DANGEROUS FLOOR OF DEATH..


YOU GUYS MUST NOT KNOW THAT THAT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACE EVEN ON THIS TOWER.
BAM MAY BE GOING FOR THE SAKE OF HIS OWN PURPOSE
BUT WHY ARE YOU GUYS PUTTING YOUR LIVES ON THE LINE TO GO WITH HIM?

...WELL..
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS..
BUT I BECAME CERTAIN THE MOMENT THAT I FIRST SAW BAM WITH THE BLACK MARCH.
....?

IF
I FOLLOW
HIM
SOMETHING
VERY INTERESTING
WILL HAPPEN.

SO YOU'RE RISKING YOUR LIFE JUST FOR SOME FUN?
WELL- THAT'S HOW IT STARTED,
BUT NOW, IT'S BEYOND JUST HAVING FUN.. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...
I ABSOLUTELY NEED TO.

I FEEL LIKE THIS WILL ALL COME TO AN END ANYWAY-
IF I LET BAM GO.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, LIFE ITSELF MAY NOT HAVE ANY REAL MEANING, YOU KNOW?
IS BEING OBSESSED WITH BREATHING AND BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH YOUR BODY REALLY LIVING?

IN ORDER TO FIND A MEANING FOR ME BEING BORN AND LIVING,
DON'T I HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT?
IF SOMETHING COMES UP WHERE I HAVE TO PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE TO GO WITH IT,
WHAT MEANING WOULD THE REST OF MY LIFE HAVE IF I WERE TO MISS THAT?

RIGHT NOW, I FEEL LIKE..
THE END OF THE WORLD WILL COME IF BAM ISN'T HERE.

LINE Webtoon